

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a storage system having a plurality of interface ports and a plurality of logical devices, wherein the interface ports are connected to a multiple protocol label switching (MPLS) network and the interface ports are formed to conduct MPLS protocol, a method of establishing a path between a logical device and a client connected to the MPLS network, comprising:

selecting an interface port having a requested bandwidth by a client from among the plurality of interface ports;

mounting to the selected interface port a logical device capable of handling the MPLS network and designated for the client;

establishing a label switching path [[via]] from the selected interface port over the MPLS network to [[a]] the client, said label switching path having [[a]] the requested bandwidth;

setting a service priority of the selected interface port to the client in response to the requested bandwidth; [[and]]

operatively connecting ~~at least one logical device selected from the plurality of the logical devices~~ to the selected interface port and the client to said label switching path;

transmitting data through said label switching path while masking data transmitted therethrough from unauthorized access by at least one of: (i) a host software, (ii) host bus adapter utilities, (iii) switch zoning, and (iv) mapping within a storage controller;

releasing said label switching path and said logical device from the selected interface port after transmitting said data; and

separately managing data transmission performance inside the storage system from data transmission performance of the MPLS network.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of selecting the interface port from among the plurality of interface ports includes selecting the interface port based on a bandwidth characteristic of the interface port.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of establishing a label switching path between the selected interface port and the client having a requested bandwidth includes establishing the label switch path based on performance characteristics of the label switch path and matching the bandwidth characteristic of the selected interface port with the performance characteristic of the label switch path.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of establishing a label switching path between the selected interface port and the client having a requested bandwidth includes establishing the label switch path based on performance characteristics of the label switch path.
5. (Currently Amended) In a storage system having a plurality of interface ports and a plurality of logical devices, wherein the interface ports are connected to a multiple protocol label switching (MPLS) network and the interface ports are formed to conduct MPLS protocol, a method of establishing a path between a logical device and a client connected to the MPLS network, comprising:
  - selecting an interface port having a requested bandwidth by a client from among the plurality of interface ports;
  - mounting to the selected interface port a logical device capable of handling the MPLS network and designated for the client;
  - requesting a management server connected to the MPLS network to establish a label switching path between from the selected interface port over the MPLS network to [[and a]] the client, said label switching path having [[a]] the requested bandwidth;
  - establishing the label switching path ~~between the selected interface port and the client with the requested bandwidth~~ in response to said requesting step;
  - setting a service priority of the selected interface port to the client in response to the requested bandwidth; [[and]]
  - operatively connecting the selected interface port and the client to said label switching path;
  - transmitting data through said label switching path while masking data transmitted therethrough from unauthorized access by at least one of: (i) a host software, (ii) host bus adapter utilities, (iii) switch zoning, and (iv) mapping within a storage controller;

releasing said label switching path and said logical device from the selected interface port after transmitting said data; and

separately managing data transmission performance inside the storage system from data transmission performance of the MPLS network ~~attaching at least one of the plurality of logical devices to the selected interface port.~~

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of selecting the interface port from among the plurality of interface ports includes selecting the interface port based on a bandwidth characteristic of the interface port.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said step of requesting a management server connected to the MPLS network to establish a label switching path between the selected interface port and a client having a requested bandwidth includes determining performance characteristic of the label switch path to be established and matching the bandwidth characteristic of the selected interface port with the performance characteristic of the label switch path.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of establishing a label switching path between the selected interface port and the client having a requested bandwidth includes establishing the label switch path based on performance characteristics of the label switch path.
9. (Currently Amended) A storage system, comprising:
  - a plurality of interface ports coupled to a multiple protocol label switching (MPLS) network, each of the interface ports being formed to establish a label switching path (LSP) to a client coupled to the MPLS network; [[and]]
  - a plurality of logical devices formed to be operatively attachable to at least one of the plurality of interface ports[[,]]; means for selecting an interface port having a requested bandwidth by a client from among the plurality of interface ports;
  - means for mounting to the selected interface port a logical device capable of handling the MPLS network and designated for the client;
  - ~~wherein each of said plurality of interface ports includes a means for~~ establishing a label switching path from the selected interface port over the MPLS

network in response to [[a]] the client, said label switching path having [[a]] the requested bandwidth[, and]];

means for setting a priority of service to the client with which the label switching path is established in response to the requested bandwidth;

means for operatively connecting the selected interface port and the client to said label switching path;

means for transmitting data through said label switching path while masking data transmitted therethrough from unauthorized access by at least one of: (i) a host software, (ii) host bus adapter utilities, (iii) switch zoning, and (iv) mapping within a storage controller;

means for releasing said label switching path and said logical device from the selected interface port after transmitting said data; and

means for separately managing data transmission performance inside the storage system from data transmission performance of the MPLS network.

10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A storage system, comprising:

a plurality of interface ports coupled to a multiple protocol label switching (MPLS) network, each of the interface ports being formed to establish a label switching path (LSP) to a client coupled to the MPLS network;

a plurality of logical devices formed to be operatively attachable to at least one of the plurality of interface ports; [[and]]

a management server operatively connected to the MPLS network, the management server including:

means for selecting an interface port having a requested bandwidth by a client from among the plurality of interface ports;

means for controlling a logical device capable of handling the MPLS network and designated for the client to be mounted to the selected interface port;

[[a]] means for establishing a label switching path ~~between at least one of the plurality of interface ports and a client coupled to~~ from the selected interface port over the MPLS network to the client, said label switching path having the requested bandwidth;[[,]]

~~wherein said client has a requested bandwidth, and said management server further includes~~ means for setting a priority of service to the client with which the label switching path is established in response to the requested bandwidth;

means for controlling the selected interface port and the client to be operatively connected to said label switching path;

means for controlling data to be transmitted through said label switching path while masked from unauthorized access by at least one of: (i) a host software, (ii) host bus adapter utilities, (iii) switch zoning, and (iv) mapping within a storage controller;

means for releasing said label switching path and said logical device from the selected interface port after said data is transmitted; and

means for separately managing data transmission performance inside the storage system from data transmission performance of the MPLS network.